

4.6 Camperdown Neighbourhood

4.6.1 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

Camperdown is located on the lands of the Gadigal. Gadigal lands extend approximately from the southern side of Sydney Harbour from South Head to around what is now known as Petersham, with the southern boundary approximately lying in the area that now forms the Alexandra Canal and Cooks River.

Gadigal Country in Camperdown features remnants of the original kangaroo grasslands, with a dominant Ashfield shale geology which is strongly linked to wet sclerophyll forest of this part of Sydney. This Country holds saltwater and freshwater that comes from the groundwater network existing in this area, in particular around Victoria Park at the University of Sydney. The topography in Camperdown is gently undulating rises on Wianamatta Shale with local relief 10–30 metres and slopes generally <5%, but up to 10%. Crests and ridges are broad (200–600 metres) and rounded with convex upper slopes grading into concave lower slopes. Rock outcrops are absent. The original ecological community present in Camperdown is Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest. The Wangal used the surrounding *wetlands* to hunt marsupials, source fresh water, harvest native plants and fruits, dig root vegetables and maintain the landscape through fire for thousands of generations of people.

This Country is an important meeting and gathering place still used by First Nations Peoples, Camperdown Memorial Rest Park and the connecting Camperdown Cemetery in particular remain significant memorial and burial places for Aboriginal Peoples. In the 2021 Census, the Australian Bureau of Statistics published that 1.2% of the population of Camperdown identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

4.6.2 Existing Character

Camperdown's existing character is defined by its diverse mix of residential, educational, and institutional uses, shaped by its proximity to the University of Sydney and Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. The suburb features a diverse urban landscape, with heritage-listed terraces, Victorian-era streetscapes, and converted industrial *buildings* sitting alongside contemporary medium to high-density developments. Its strong sense of place is reinforced by an active street life, pedestrian-friendly environments, and well-utilised green spaces such as Camperdown Memorial Rest Park. The area's historical layers, combined with its evolving role within the Tech Central innovation corridor, create a distinctive character that balances its rich heritage with a dynamic, urban edge.

4.6.3 Desired Future Character

The *Desired Future Character* of the Camperdown Neighbourhood will support its role as a health, education and innovation precinct within Tech Central, while conserving its established 19th-century streetscapes, *heritage items* and public places.

Development is to retain significant terrace groups and workers' cottages, maintain predominant single-storey residential streetscapes, and ensure new *buildings* are visually recessive to the spire of St

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Stephen's Church. Identified pre-1911, pre-1916 and pre-1921 development is to be retained in accordance with applicable *Heritage Conservation Area* controls.

Active ground-floor uses are encouraged where appropriate to support street activity and employment, and the adaptive reuse of former industrial sites for health, education and civic purposes is supported where consistent with *heritage significance* and residential amenity.

The *public domain* will continue to be defined by the protection of Camperdown Park and Camperdown Memorial Rest Park, including their historic layouts, mature plantings, significant infrastructure elements and important views and vistas.

Objectives

- O1. To enhance the existing vibrant, mixed-use character, and ensure the sensitive integration of new development with the area's historical and cultural identity.
- O2. To facilitate development that contributes to the development of the Camperdown precinct of Tech Central as a health, education, and innovation precinct.
- O3. To maintain distinctly single storey residential streetscapes that exist within the *neighbourhood*.
- O4. To ensure development maintains and enhances the existing character of *heritage conservation areas* within the *neighbourhood*.

Controls

- C1. Development, including land uses and urban design, is to enhance and achieve the *desired future character* of the *neighbourhood* while retaining elements that contribute to that character and meeting all relevant DCP requirements.
- C2. Encourage active commercial fronts facing streets at ground floor level to create a vibrant and safe streetscape.
- C3. Protect significant streetscapes and/or *public domain* elements within the *neighbourhood* including *landscaping*, fencing, open space, sandstone kerbing and guttering, views and vistas and prevailing subdivision patterns.
- C4. Facilitate a public pedestrian access way linking Denison Street with Australia Street in the mid to northern part of this block to improve pedestrian accessibility to Camperdown Park.
- C5. To protect groups or runs of *buildings* which retain their original built form including roof forms, original detailing and finishes.

4.6.4 Heritage

The controls for:

- Camperdown Park *Heritage Conservation Area* apply to the land listed as C32
- Hopetoun–Roberts–Federation Streets *Heritage Conservation Area* apply to the land listed as C33

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- North Kingston Estate *Heritage Conservation Area* apply to the land listed as *Street Heritage Conservation Area* apply to the land listed as C34

The objectives and controls for the following *Heritage Conservation Areas* are found elsewhere in this DCP:

- Cardigan Street HCA (C88) – Part 4.21 – Stanmore *Neighbourhood*

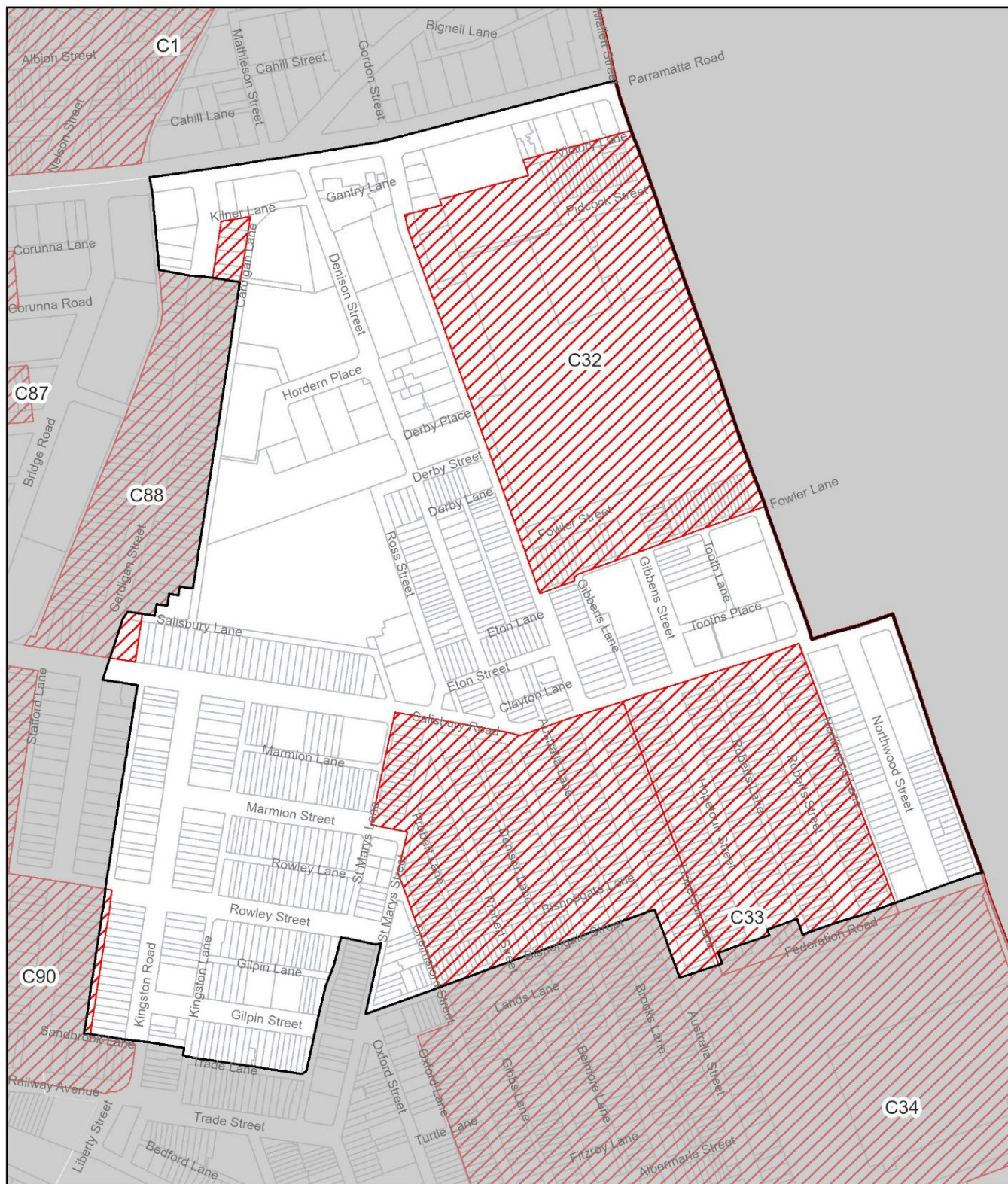


Figure 4.6.1 Camperdown Neighbourhood – Heritage Conservation Area

4.6.4 (C32) Camperdown Park Heritage Conservation Area

The Camperdown Park Estate *Heritage Conservation Area* demonstrates the pattern and growth of the terrace-house typology in Sydney during the mid to late 19th century, with a small group of *shops* integrated into the terrace group near the intersection of Gibbens and Fowler Streets. Camperdown Park, formerly part of the Fowlers Pottery works, provides evidence of the adaptive re-use of industrial sites for civic beautification and reflects early 20th-century urban park design principles. The area represents the principal characteristics of Camperdown's development from an early estate to an urban cultural landscape, with intact terrace groups in an unusual setting overlooking a major park.

Key Features:

- Evidence of historic integration of industrial and residential land uses.
- Adaptive re-use of obsolete former industrial sites for civic purposes, including Camperdown Park.
- Consistent groups of two-storey terraces forming a cohesive streetscape with regular bay widths and stepped alignment down the hillside.
- Significant plantings in parks and streetscapes contributing to the area's aesthetic value.
- Rare surviving infrastructure elements, including the horse and dog watering trough and sandstone kerbing and guttering.
- Strong and regular streetscape rhythm created by the regular bay widths of terraces and their stepped alignment down the hillside.

Objectives

- O5. To facilitate development that is consistent with the statement of significance and controls for Camperdown Park *Heritage Conservation Area*.

Controls

Note: These controls apply in addition to the general heritage provisions in Section 2.12 of this DCP. Applicants are to address both the general heritage controls and the locality-specific controls below.

- C6. Retain the following elements that define the *heritage significance*:
- a) All pre-1911 *buildings*
 - b) Camperdown Park layout, plantings and elements
 - c) Street tree plantings, particularly the mature plantings near the intersection of Fowler and Gibbens Streets which create a strong focal point to the group
 - d) The Sullivan RSPCA water trough

4.6.4 (C33) Hopetoun-Roberts-Federation Streets Heritage Conservation Area

The Hopetoun-Roberts-Federation Streets *Heritage Conservation Area* was one of the last areas of Newtown to be subdivided for residential development. Developed from 1900, its street names

celebrate Australian nationalism during early Federation. Although created during the suburban boom, the area demonstrates continuity in urban densities and development patterns traditional to Camperdown. It occupies part of the Kingston Estate, an important early estate and is significant for its intact late Victorian and Federation housing typologies and cohesive streetscape.

Key Features:

- Cohesive streetscape of terrace, detached, and *semi-detached dwellings* from the late 19th to early 20th centuries
- Good groups of substantially intact late Victorian and Federation freestanding cottages interspersed with terraces from 1900–1915
- Rows of attached terraces of high quality for their type, with gabled forms creating distinctive streetscape rhythms
- Consistency of streetscape due to regular subdivision pattern and short development timeframe
- Predominantly single-storey scale reinforcing the modest purpose of original cottages and terraces
- Close visual and physical relationship with Camperdown Memorial Rest Park and the spire of St Stephen's Church

Objectives

- O6. To facilitate development that is consistent with the statement of significance and controls for Hopetoun-Roberts-Federation Streets *Heritage Conservation Area*.

Controls

Note: These controls apply in addition to the general heritage provisions in Section 2.12 of this DCP. Applicants are to address both the general heritage controls and the locality-specific controls below.

- C7. Retain the following elements that define the *heritage significance*:

- a) All pre-1916 *buildings*
- b) Small garden plantings in front of *dwellings*
- c) Vehicular access provided from rear lane
- d) Street tree plantings

4.6.4 (C34) North Kingston Estate Heritage Conservation Area

The North Kingston Estate *Heritage Conservation Area* demonstrates the pattern of development in the Inner West from early land grants to a densely settled urban landscape. It occupies land within the Kingston Farm Estate, an important early estate and retains evidence of socio-topographic patterns of land use, with grander houses along the Albemarle Street ridgeline and modest workers' cottages on the lower slopes. The area is significant for its intact 19th and early 20th century housing typologies, corner *shops*, and small-scale industrial development, which collectively illustrate the options for housing available to workers and the lower middle classes.

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Key Features:

- Streetscapes of densely settled mid to late 19th century workers' cottages and terraces integrated with retail activities, including corner *shops* and small shopping precincts. The street layout was formed in the original subdivision of 190 acres.
- Historic and aesthetic values focused on Albemarle Street and St Stephen's Church, illustrating early suburban expansion linked to the western rail line.
- St Stephen's Church and Camperdown Memorial Rest Park as strong focal points within the area.
- High urban density, narrow streets, and frequent *attached dwellings* creating an intimate streetscape quality.
- Subdivision pattern demonstrating socio-topographic land use: grander houses on the ridgeline and modest cottages on lower slopes.
- Good rows and groups of terraces from different architectural periods, including rare Colonial Regency examples.
- Rare surviving modest workers' cottages, including weatherboard construction.

Objectives

- O7. To facilitate development that is consistent with the statement of significance and controls for North Kingston Estate *Heritage Conservation Area*.

Controls

Note: These controls apply in addition to the general heritage provisions in Section 2.12 of this DCP. Applicants are to address both the general heritage controls and the locality-specific controls below.

- C8. The axial vista from Albermarle Street towards St Stephen's Church is to be protected:
- a) New development is to maintain and accommodate any existing view towards St Stephen's Church or the Camperdown Memorial Rest Park
 - b) New development is not to introduce elements that may distract from the prominence of the spire of St Stephen's Church or its setting in any vista towards the spire, including into the foreground or background of those vistas
 - c) Street trees planted in Albermarle Street is to allow the spire to remain the most prominent element in the vista. Canopy-forming trees are not appropriate in Albermarle Street
- C9. The *curtilage* of St Stephen's Church and Camperdown Memorial Rest Park is to be protected.
- C10. Development in the vicinity of St Stephen's Church and the Park is to respect the setting of the Church by not introducing *buildings* or elements that will conflict with the traditional setting of the Church.
- C11. Retain the following elements that define the *heritage significance*:
- a) All pre-1921 *buildings*
 - b) Street tree plantings